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contentment (kən-tent'mənt), n. [Fr. *contentement*]. 1. state, quality, or fact of being contented. 2. [aia], a satisfying or being satisfied.

con-ti-nal (kən-ti'nəl), adj. conterminous.

con-ti-nous (kən-ti'nü-əs), adj. [L. *conterminus*, deriving upon < *com-*, together + *terminus*, an end], having a common boundary at some point; continuous. 2. having the same boundaries or limits.

con-test (kən-test'), v.t. [Fr. *contester*, contest; L. *contestari*, to call to witness, bring action *com-* together + *testari*, to bear witness < *testis*, a witness], 1. to try to disprove or invalidate (something) as by argument or legal action; dispute: as, will contest his father's will. 2. to fight for (ground, military position, etc.); struggle to win or keep: to contend; struggle (with or against). n. 1. strife; conflict; fight. 2. verbal strife; controversy. 3. any race, game, debate, etc. in which there is struggle to be the winner. —SYN. see conflict.

con-testant (kən-test'ənt), n. [Fr.], a person who contests or competes in a contest.

con-testa-tion (kən'tes-tā'shən), n. [*< Fr. & L.; Fr. *contestation*; L. *contestatio* < *contestari**], a contesting; content; dispute.

con-text (kən'tekst), n. [L. *contextus*, pp. of *contextere*, weave together < *com-*, together + *texere*, to weave], the parts of a sentence, paragraph, discourse, etc. to occur just before and after a specified word or usage, and determine its exact meaning: as, it is unwise to quote this remark out of its context. 2. the whole situation, background, or environment relevant to some opening or personality.

con-text-u-al (kən-teks'tchō-əl, kən-teks'tchō-əl), adj. connected with, or depending on, the context.

con-text-u-ally (kən-teks'tchō-əl-i, kən-teks'tchō-əl-i), adv. according to, or by referring to, the context.

con-texture (kən-teks'tchōr, kən-teks'tchōr), n. [Fr. < *contextus*; see CONTEXT]. 1. a weaving together; interlacement. 2. an interwoven mass; fabric. 3. the way in which a thing is put together; structure; composition.

con-tigu-i-ty (kən'ti-gwī'si-ti), n. [pl. *CONTIGUITIES* (*z*)], [Fr. *contiguité*; ML. *contiguitas*]. 1. nearness or contact. 2. [Rare], continuous mass or unbroken series.

con-tig-u-ous (kən-tig'wū-əs), adj. [L. *contiguus*, bordering upon < base of *contingere*, to touch upon, border upon; see CONTINGENT], 1. in physical contact; touching. 2. near; adjoining. —SYN. see adjacent.

con-tig-u-ous-ly (kən-tig'wū-əs-li), adv. in such a way as to be contiguous.

con-tin., 1. continued. 2. *continuetur*, [L.]; let it be continued.

con-tin-e-nce (kən'tē-nəns), n. [ME.; OFr.; L. *continencia* < pp. of *continere*; see CONTAIN]. 1. self-restraint; moderation. 2. self-restraint in sexual activity; especially, complete abstinence.

con-tin-e-nce (kən'tē-nəns), n. continence.

con-tin-e-n-tal (kən'tē-nənt'l), adj. 1. of a continent, sometimes C., or characteristic of the Continent; European. 3. [C.], of the American colonies at the time of the American Revolution, or of the States just after 1776. n. 1. [usually C.], a person living on the Continent; European. 2. [C.], a soldier of the American army during the Revolutionary period. 3. a piece of paper money issued by the Continental Congress; it became almost worthless before the end of the war, hence the phrase *not worth a continental*, worthless.

con-tin-e-n-tal Congress, either of two assemblies of representatives from the American colonies during the Revolutionary period: the first was held in 1774 to press grievances against British colonial policy; the second convened in 1775, created the Continental army, signed the Declaration of Independence (1776) and the Articles of Confederation (1788), and operated as the legislative body of the United States for several years.

con-tin-e-n-tal Divide, the ridge of the Rocky Mountains that separates rivers flowing toward the Atlantic from those flowing toward the Pacific.

con-tin-e-n-tal shelf, the submerged shelf of land that slopes gradually from the exposed edge of a continent

for a variable distance to the point where the steep descent to the ocean bottom begins.

con-tin-gence (kən-tin'jəns), n. contingency.

con-tin-gen-cy (kən-tin'jən-si), n. [*pl. CONTINGENCIES (-sēz)*], [*< L. contingens*]. 1. the quality or condition of being contingent. 2. dependence on chance or uncertain conditions; uncertainty of occurrence. 3. something whose occurrence depends on chance or uncertain conditions; possible, accidental, or chance event: as, be prepared for any contingency. 4. something incidental to another thing. —SYN. see emergency.

con-tin-gent (kən-tin'jənt), adj. [L. *contingens*, ppr. of *contingere*, to touch, meet, happen < *com-*, together + *tangere*, to touch; see CONTACT]. 1. that may or may not happen; possible. 2. happening by chance; accidental; fortuitous. 3. dependent (on or *upon* something uncertain); conditional. 4. [Archaic], touching; tangential. 5. in logic, true only with certain conditions or contexts; not always or necessarily true. n. 1. an accidental or chance happening. 2. a share, proportion, or quota, as of troops, ships, laborers, delegates, etc. 3. a group or body forming part of a larger one.

con-tin-gent fee, a fee of a lawyer or agent the amount or payment of which depends upon the outcome of a particular litigation or transaction.

con-tin-u-a-ble (kən-tin'ü-ə-b'l), adj. that can be continued.

con-tin-u-al (kən-tin'ü-əl), adj. [ME. *continuel*; OFr. *continuel* < L. *continuus*; see CONTINUE]. 1. happening over and over again; repeated often; going on in rapid succession. 2. continuous; going on uninterruptedly. —SYN. —continuous applies to that which recurs repeatedly or goes on unceasingly over a long period of time (*continuous arguments*); continuous applies to that which extends without interruption in either space or time (*a continuous expanse*); constant stresses uniformity, steadiness, or regularity in occurrence or recurrence (the *constant beat* of the heart); incessant implies unceasing or uninterrupted activity (*incessant chatter*); perpetual applied to that which lasts or persists for an indefinitely long time (*a perpetual nuisance*); eternal stresses endlessness or timelessness (*the eternal verities*). —ANT. intermittent, interrupted.

con-tin-u-al-ly (kən-tin'ü-ə-lē), adv. [ME. *continuelliche*; see CONTINUAL & -LY]. 1. again and again; repeatedly and often. 2. all the time; without interruption.

con-tin-u-ance (kən-tin'ü-əns), n. [ME.; OFr.; see CONTINUE]. 1. a keeping up, going on, going on with; or lasting (of an action, process, or state). 2. the time during which an action, process, or state lasts; duration. 3. a remaining (in a place, position, or state); stay. 4. an unbroken succession. 5. a continuation; sequel. 6. in law, the postponement or adjournment of proceedings to a later date.

con-tin-u-ant (kən-tin'ü-ənt), n. [*< L. continuans*, ppr.; see CONTINUE], a speech sound that can be prolonged as long as the breath lasts, with no change in the quality of the sound: continuants are called *frikatives* (s, sh, th [IPA ð], etc.), *nasals* (m, n, ñ), *liquids* (l, r), or *vowels*; distinguished from *stop*.

con-tin-u-a-tion (kən-tin'ü-ə-shən), n. [OFr.; L. *continuatio* < pp. of *continuare*; see CONTINUE]. 1. a keeping up or going on without interruption; prolonged and unbroken existence or maintenance. 2. a taking up or beginning again after an interruption; resumption. 3. a part or thing added to make something reach further or last longer; extension; supplement; sequel.

con-tin-u-a-tion school, a school offering instruction in elementary and vocational subjects to adults who wish to continue their education: classes are held mainly in the evening.

con-tin-u-a-tive (kən-tin'ü-ə-tiv), adj. [L. *continuatus*]. 1. continuing something. 2. in grammar, expressing continuation, or sequel, as the subordinate clause in the sentence "I gave the check to the teller, who cashed it for me."

con-tin-u-a-tor (kən-tin'ü-ə-tör), n. a person who continues something, as a literary work started by another.

con-tin-u-e (kən-tin'ü), v.i. [CONTINUED (-üd), CONTINUING], [ME. *continuen*; OFr. *continuer*; L. *continuare*, to join, unite, make continuous < *continuus*, continuous < *continere*; see CONTAIN]. 1. to remain in existence or effect; last; endure: as, the war continued for five years. 2. to go on in a specified condition or course of action: as, we continued to let him have his way, she continued ailing. 3. to remain in the same place or position; stay: as, the chairman continued in office for another year. 4. to keep on; persist; persevere: as, we continued to demand our rights. 5. to go on again after an interruption; resume: as, after a sip of water, the speaker continued. v.t. 1. to go on with; carry on; keep up; persist in. 2. to carry further; extend. 3. to go on with (an activity, story, etc.) again after an interruption; resume. 4. to cause to remain; keep; retain: as, the people continued Roosevelt in office for four terms. 5. in law, to postpone or adjourn to a later date.

ape, bâr; car, tæn; even, hâr, ovər; is, bite; lôt, gô, hôrn, tôsl, look; oil, out; up, ūs, fir; get; joy, yet; chin, shâ, shîn, zh, tâs; leisure, n, ring; o for a in ago, e in agent, i in sandy, o in comply, u in focus; as in abd-ah'b'l; Fr. bâl; Fr. s, Fr. ô, Fr. feu; Fr. mon; ô, Fr. coq; ô, Fr. duc; H; G. ich, kh, G. doch. See pp. x-xii. f-foreign; *hypothetical; < derived from

SYN.—continue implies a going on in a specified condition or course and stresses uninterrupted existence rather than duration; last stresses duration, either for the specified time, or, if unqualified, for a time beyond that which is usual; endure implies continued resistance to destructive influences or forces; abide is applied to that which remains stable and steadfast, especially in contrast to that which is changing and transitory; persist implies continued existence beyond the expected or normal time.—**ANT.** stop, cease.

continued fraction, a fraction whose denominator contains a fraction, whose denominator contains a fraction, and so forth (e.g., 5

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 + 3 \\ \hline 8 + 4 \\ \quad \quad \quad 5 + \dots \end{array}$$

continued proportion, a series of three or more quantities with the same ratio between each two adjacent terms (e.g., 3, 6, 12, 24).

continued story, a story, usually a novel, published in installments in a magazine or newspaper; serial.

con-tin-u'er (*kon-tin'ü-er*), *n.* a person or thing that continues.

con-tin-u-i-ty (*kon'ta-nöō's-e-ti*, *kon'ta-nü'e-ti*), *n.* [*pl. CONTINUITIES (-tiz)*]. [Fr. *continuité*; L. *continuitas*], 1. the state or quality of being continuous. 2. a continuous series or succession; unbroken, coherent whole. 3. a written plan detailing the succession and connection of scenes in a motion picture. 4. in radio, a) a series of comments or announcements connecting the parts of a program. b) the script of a program.

con-tin-u-ous (*kon-tin'ü-əs*), *adj.* [L. *continuus*; see *CONTINUE*, going on or extending without interruption or break; unbroken; connected.—**SYN.** see continuous.]

con-tin-u-um (*kon-tin'ü-əm*), *n.* [*pl. CONTINUA (-a)*], [L. neut. of *continuus*], a continuous whole, quantity, or series; thing whose parts cannot be separated or separately discerned.

con-to (*kon-tō*), *n.* [*pl. CONTOS (-tōz)*]. [Port., lit., million < L. *computus*; see COUNT (enumeration)], a money of account in Brazil and Portugal, formerly equal to 1,000,000 reis, now equal to 1,000 cruzeiros in Brazil and 1,000 escudos in Portugal.

con-tort (*kon-tör't*), *v.t.* [*< L. contortus*, pp. of *contorquere*, to whirl, twist < *com-*, together + *torquere*, to twist, to force out of shape by or as by twisting, bending, wrenching, etc.; distort: as, a face contorted with anger.—**SYN.** see deform.]

con-tor-tion (*kon-tör'shən*), *n.* 1. a contorting or being contorted; distortion, especially of the face or body. 2. a contorted condition, position, or shape.

con-tor-tion-ist (*kon-tör'shən-ist*), *n.* a person who can contort his body into unnatural positions.

con-tor-tive (*kon-tör'tiv*), *adj.* of or characterized by contortion.

con-tour (*kon'toor*), *n.* [Fr.; It. *contorno* < LL. *contornare*, to go around < L. *com-*, intens. + *tornare*, to turn < *turnus*, a lathe < Gr. *tornos*, tool to make a circle with], 1. the outline of a figure, mass, land, etc. 2. the representation of such an outline. *v.t.* 1. to make an outline of; represent in contour. 2. to construct (a road, etc.) in accordance with natural contours. *adj.* characterized by furrows along the natural contour lines so as to avoid erosion: as, contour farming.—**SYN.** see outline.

contour feathers, feathers that form the surface plumage of a bird and determine the outer contour, apart from wings, tail, etc.

contour interval, the difference in elevation represented by each of the contour lines on a map.

contour line, 1. an imaginary line connecting all points of the same elevation on a part of the earth's surface. 2. a line on a map, representing this line.

contour map, a map showing the physical features of an area of land by means of contour lines.

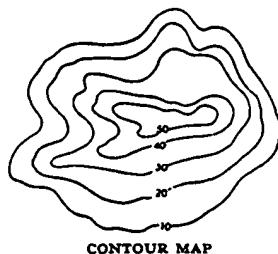
contr. 1. contract. 2. contracted. 3. contraction. 4. contralto. 5. contrary. 6. contrasted. 7. control. 8. controller.

con-tra (*kon'tra*), *adv.* [*L.*] to the contrary; contrariwise. *n.* something contrary or opposite: abbreviated cont.

con-tra- (*kon'tra*), [*< L. contra*, against], a prefix meaning against, opposite, opposed to, contrary, as in contradict, contraceptive.

con-tra-band (*kon'tra-band'*), *n.* [Sp. *contrabanda*, a smuggling; It. *contrabando* < *contra*, against + *banda* < LL. *bandum, bannum* (see BAN, proclamation): first used in 16th c., in reference to illicit trade with Sp. colonies].

1. unlawful or prohibited trade. 2. goods forbidden by law to be imported and exported; smuggled merchandise. 3. contraband of war. 4. during the Civil War,



CONTOUR MAP

a Negro slave who fled to or was smuggled behind Union lines or remained in territory captured by the Union Army. *adj.* forbidden by law to be imported and exported.

con-tra-band-ist (*kon'tra-ban'dist*), *n.* a person who trades in contraband goods; smuggler.

contraband of war, goods essential to warfare, munition, weapons, etc., which, according to national law, may rightfully be intercepted and seized by either belligerent when shipped to the other over a neutral country.

con-tra-bass (*kon'tra-bäs'*), *adj.* [see CONTRABAND] having its pitch an octave lower than the normal bass; double-bass.

n. an instrument or voice having the lowest bass tone; specifically, the largest and deepest-toned instrument of the viol class; double bass.

con-tra-bass-ist (*kon'tra-bäs'ist*), *n.* a person who plays the contrabass.

con-tra-bas-so (*kon'tra-bäs'sō*), *n.* [It. < L. *contra*, opposite + *basso* < *bassus*, low], a contrabass.

con-tra-bas-soon (*kon'tra-bäs'sōn*), *n.* the double bassoon, which is larger than the regular bassoon and an octave lower in pitch.

con-tra-cep-tion (*kon'tra-sep'shən*), *n.* [*contra* + *conception*], artificial prevention of the fertilization of the human ovum: often called birth control.

con-tra-cep-tive (*kon'tra-sep'tiv*), *adj.* of or used in contraception. *n.* any contraceptive device.

con-tra-clock-wise (*kon'tra-klok'wiz*), *adj.* & *adv.* counterclockwise.

con-tract (*kon'trakt*; for *v.t.* I sometimes, and, for *v. always*, *kan-trakt'*), *n.* [OFr. < L. *contrahere*, drawing together; pp. of *contrahere*, to draw together, make a bargain < *com-*, together + *trahere*, to draw],

1. an agreement between two or more people to do something; compact; covenant. 2. an agreement, usually written, enforceable by law. 3. a formal agreement of marriage or betrothal. 4. a document containing the terms of an agreement. 5. in bridge, the verbal agreement made by the highest bidder to make a number of tricks. b) the number of tricks he bids. c) contract bridge. Abbreviated contr., contr.

v.t. [*< L. *contractus**], 1. to enter upon, or undertake by contract. 2. [Rare], to betroth. 3. to get; acquire: incur: as, he contracted the disease. 4. to reduce in size; draw together; narrow; shrink: as, cold contracts metals. 5. in grammar, to shorten (word or phrase) by the omission of a letter or part, as in I'm, I can't. *v.i.* 1. to make a contract; agree formally, as, we contracted for a new car. 2. to become reduced in size or bulk; draw together; shrink; narrow.

SYN.—contract implies a drawing together of surfaces and a resultant decrease in size, bulk, or extent; shrink is to contract so as to be short of the normal or required length, amount, extent, etc. (my shirts have shrunk); condense suggests reduction of something into a more compact or more dense form without loss of essential content (condensed milk); to compress is to press or squeeze into a more compact, orderly form (a lifetime's work compressed into one volume); deflate implies a reduction in size or bulk by the removal of air, gas, or in extended use, anything insubstantial (to deflate a balloon, one's ego, etc.).—**ANT.** expand, inflate.

contract bridge, a form of auction bridge in which only the number of tricks named in the contract may be counted toward a game, additional tricks being counted as honors.

con-tract-ed (*kon-trak'tid*), *adj.* [pp. of *contract*], reduced in size or bulk; drawn together; narrowed; shortened; shrunken: abbreviated contr. 2. narrow in mental scope; narrow-minded; illiberal. 3. acquired.

con-tract-i-bil-i-ty (*kon-trak'ta-bil'i-ti*), *n.* the quality of being contractible.

con-tract-i-ble (*kon-trak'ta-b'l*), *adj.* that can be contracted.

con-trac-tile (*kon-trak'til*, *kon-trak'til*), *adj.* 1. having the power of contracting. 2. producing contraction.

con-trac-til-i-ty (*kon'trak-til'e-ti*), *n.* [Fr. *contractilité*; see CONTRACTILE], the ability to contract, or shrink.

con-trac-tion (*kon-trak'shən*), *n.* [Fr.; L. *contractio*], 1. a contracting or being contracted. 2. the drawing up and thickening of a muscle fiber or a muscle in action. 3. in grammar, a) the shortening of a word or phrase by the omission of one or more letters or sounds (e.g., aren't for are not, dep't for department). b) a word formed resulting from this: abbreviated contr.

con-trac-tive (*kon-trak'tiv*), *adj.* 1. having the power of contracting. 2. producing or tending to produce contraction. 3. of contraction.

con-trac-tor (*kon-trak'tər*; also, and for 3 usually, *kan-trak'tər*), *n.* [LL.], 1. one of the parties to a contract. 2. a person who contracts to supply certain materials or do certain work for a stipulated sum;



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